



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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February 17, 2016

TO: Each Supervisor
FROM: *Robin Kay*
Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Acting Director

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE SOURCE
CONTRACT NEGOTIATION WITH MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY
SERVICES, INC.**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source Contracts, which requires that the Board be given a six-month advance notice of expiring agreements. The intent of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is to return to your Board within the next six months to request Board approval to enter into contract negotiations, and subsequently initiate a Sole Source Agreement, with Multisystemic Therapy Services, Inc. (MST Services). The current Consultant Services Agreement (MH050050) with MST Services is due to expire on June 30, 2016. The new Consultant Services Agreement with MST Services will be for Fiscal Years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. The funding for this Agreement will be State allocated Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) funds, through an Intrafund Transfer from the Probation Department, for a Total Contract Amount of \$122,000 per fiscal year, totaling \$610,000 for five years.

Through a Sole Source Agreement, MST Services will continue to provide training, consultation, and licensure for mental health clinicians practicing the copyrighted Multisystemic Therapy (MST) treatment intervention in the County of Los Angeles. MST was identified by the Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) in 2000 as part of the County's Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan for Assembly Bill 1913 (the Schiff-Cardenas Crime Prevention Act of 2000, also known as JJCPA). MST has been part of the County's plan for the past 15 years and has demonstrated excellent outcomes during that period of time.

Established in 1996, MST Services is the only organization licensed for the dissemination of MST. Researchers developed the MST treatment model, an evidence-based practice that is dedicated to serving troubled adolescents involved with the juvenile justice system. This model combines community- and family-based therapies to target and decrease antisocial behavior, incarceration, and drug abuse while increasing positive family relationships and academic performance. The MST treatment

model has proven to be effective in over 30 states within the United States as well as 12 other countries. This includes improved outcomes for youth and their families, as evidenced by decreased aggression and criminal involvement, as well as improved academic achievement and family functioning.

MST is repeatedly cited as one of the most effective programs for justice involved youth and their families. Similar outcomes have been found in the County of Los Angeles. Specifically, the RAND Corporation evaluation of the program has repeatedly demonstrated that youth in the MST program have significantly lower arrest, incarceration and probation violation rates, and complete probation, restitution and community service at a significantly higher rate than a comparison group of youth who did not participate in MST.

MST Services holds the trademark for MST. MST Services has neither allowed nor authorized any other entity to provide the rigorous level of training, supervision and licensure required to provide MST. In this way, MST Services has guaranteed that there will be both proper training and high adherence to the clinical practice which has helped to sustain the excellent outcomes associated with the intervention.

In order to achieve the improved outcomes described above, MST providers need guidance and assistance in properly practicing MST in accordance with the interventions described in the original clinical trials conducted by MST Services. As such, MST Services is uniquely qualified as the sole provider of these services, which includes comprehensive assistance with the implementation and licensure of MST programs in addition to ongoing clinical training and quality assurance support. In fact, MST Services is the sole proprietor and only entity legally allowed to train, provide technical assistance and support, and license MST providers.

These services support and facilitate DMH and its providers in serving severely and persistently mentally ill adults and seriously emotionally disturbed children, adolescents and their families residing throughout the County of Los Angeles. If DMH is unable to enter into a sole source agreement with MST Services, DMH and Probation will be unable to carry out the County's Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan as approved by the State and may risk losing the associated JJCPA funding.

Unless otherwise instructed by your Board, DMH will proceed with entering into contract negotiations with MST Services, effective July 1, 2016. DMH will work closely with both the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing the agreement.

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff may contact Angel Baker, Interim Chief, Contracts Development and Administration Division, at (213) 738-4684.

RK:TB:KS:mi

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